

MR2723-307
Appln. No. 10/657,199
Reply to Office Action dated 3/15/2006

Remarks/Arguments

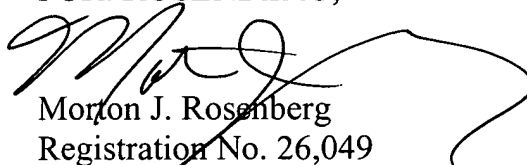
This case has been reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 15 March 2006. In the Official Action, the Examiner has found two inventions, namely, Group I directed to Claims 1-5 drawn to a method for producing a beta-lactam with a protoplast fusion strain; and Group II directed to Claims 5-7 drawn to beta-lactam compounds. The Examiner has required that Applicant choose Group I or Group II for further prosecution in this case.

It is believed that the Official Action had a typographical error in that Group I should be directed to Claims 1-4 and Group II directed to Claims 5-7. The undersigned attorney made a call to the Examiner on 6 April 2006 to confirm that in fact Group I referenced in the Official Action is directed to Claims 1-4. Such confirmation was made by the Examiner.

By this Amendment and Response, Applicant has canceled Claims 5-7 and elects Claims 1-4 for further prosecution.

It is now believed that the subject patent application has been placed in condition for examination and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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